FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force hit a "large maritime target" near Khark Island on 27 February, Iraq announced in an official statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, Lloyds of London revealed that three "unidentified" planes attacked a Greek oil tanker heading toward Dubayy that day, according to KUNA. The agency noted that the aircraft used guns rather than rockets or missiles.

Egypt-Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, affirmed Israel's support "without any qualification" for "direct" negotiations in Cairo with either a Jordanian or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that does not include PLO representatives. This follows Peres' 27 February meeting with Egyptian presidential envoy 'Abd al-Halim Badawi who conveyed a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on promoting the peace process, IDF radio stated. Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at a Hague news conference that Egypt's initiative is aimed at influencing the United States to approach the PLO, adding that the Egyptians are primarily interested in a meeting between Jordan, the Palestinians, and the United States, Jerusalem radio reported.

President Mubarak has asked Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to formulate an "integrated plan" for backing the Jordanian-Palestinian move, according to Cairo radio. Mubarak believes that a dialogue between a Jordanian-Palestician delegation and the United States to prepare for "expanded negotiations" must be the next move, the radio noted.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad discussed "all aspects" of the Middle East situation during talks with visiting PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Damascus radio reported. In an arrival statement carried by SANA, the South Yemeni leader praised Syria's "cohesion" with the Palestinian revolution, and sharply criticized the PLO-Jordanian agreement as an "infringement" of the Palestinian people's right to return and to statehood. The Amman agreement also ignores PNC resolutions and undermines efforts to restore PLO unity, he contended.

The PLO-Jordanian agreement was likewise denounced in a statement issued by Arab communist and labor parties at the end of their conference in Damascus. According to SANA, the statement said the agreement proves that the PLO's "rightist leadership led by Yasir 'Arafat" is pursuing a policy that has "greatly harmed" the Palestinian cause.

In a separate development, two Syrians expelled from West Berlin were responsible for hijacking a Frankfurt-Damascus flight to Vienna in an attempt to obtain political asylum in Austria, according to DPA. The hijackers surrendered after failing to achieve their demands.

Lebanon

Israeli military sources described a 27 February incident between the IDF and the Lebanese Army as a "mistake," Jerusalem television reported. An Israeli tank had fired a warning shell at Lebanese soldiers near Al-Nabatiyah after the latter fired at IDF soldiers who were chasing a group of "terrorists," according to the television. Meanwhile, SANA reported that the Syrian foreign minister said his country will not leave Lebanon to face Israel alone, a statement which Jerusalem television viewed as a reaction to the IDF-Lebanese firing incident.

As for the current tension between Israel and UNIFIL, the latter is "extremely disturbed" by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's harsh criticisms of the French contingent, a UNIFIL spokesman disclosed in remarks cited by AFP. The French Government summoned the Israeli ambassador to the Quai d'Orsay to protest Rabin's remarks, which it considers as "inadmissible," according to Paris radio. Nevertheless, the ambassador subsequently announced that the incident caused by Rabin's remarks had been "settled," Jerusalem radio reported.

Iran

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi discussed bilateral cooperation with PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu during the latter's visit to Iran, IRNA reported.

Western Sahara

Saharan Information Ministry statements, reported by Algiers radio and APS, claimed that the Saharan Liberation Army killed 42 Moroccan soldiers and wounded 67 others during attacks near Bu Craa on 25 and 26 February. Meanwhile, a Polisario Front spokesman in Madrid expressed regret over the shooting down of a German D-228 plane on 24 February, noting that this is the same type of plane used by Moroccans for military reconnaissance, according to Madrid radio.

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20-Man Rebel Group Surrenders for Amnesty

LD280016 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In continuation of our compatriots coming to the side of the government, a 20-man group that had been active and cooperating for a while with the criminal Etehad-e Eslami band in the environs of Shakar Darreh District and led by Zalmai, have recently surrendered to the security authorities in this district, bringing their weapons with them. Those weapons included Chinese and Egyptian Kalashnikovs, British mark 303 rifles, rocket launchers, and a large ammount of ammunition. Thus they availed themselves of the Revolutionary Council's general amnesty decree.

In repenting their past deeds, they guaranteed that they will defend the gains of the glorious April Revolution to the end, as well as its new development stage, and will work sincerely for the construction of the new and revolutionary Afghanistan. They said that they are not going to allow the rebels to disrupt the peaceful and tranquil life of the noble people in their region.

Clandestine Reports Soviet Artillery, Air Raids

GF271840 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] According to reports received, the joint forces of the Soviet invaders and the mercenaries of the Karmal regime shelled the Ba'i region to identify and destroy the positions of our mujahidin brothers. This brutal operation martyred 100 defenseless people and wounded many.

Since 15 February they have shelled the residential areas of our defenseless people with artillery and aircraft in Paktia. The military operations of the invading Soviet forces and the mercenaries of the Karmal regime have been intensifed due to the growing attacks and operations by our Muslim mujahidin around Kabul. The invading Soviet forces in our country have become helpless against a number of our mujahidin brother's attacks and operations. They now try to create famine and think that by this they will bring the people of the region to their knees.

Their warplanes have continued to destroy agricultural fields and orchards and set them ablaze with napalm. A few days ago some of the hypocrites who were armed with the weapons of the Karmal regime attacked the innocent people of Moqor and its surrounding areas and destroyed four agricultural fields. They wanted to attack the positions of the Muslim mujahidin in this area and overrun them but our Muslim brothers launched a series of attacks on them and forced them to flee in disgrace. These hypocrites fled with sheep, other domestic animals, and some grain belonging to innocent and defenseless people in the area.

Voice of Afghanistan on Mujahidin's Attacks

LD272209 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1130 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Konar — Our correspondent reports from Konar Province that the heroic mujahidin attacked a military convoy of the invading Soviets and servant forces in (Sang-e Bador) region. After a heavy fight the enemy's 2 tanks and 3 trucks were destroyed, and more than 20 invading Soviet soldiers were also killed.

The invading Soviet soldiers were once again attacked by the faithful mujahidin in this region which resulted in the destruction of 2 of the force's tanks and the death of approximately 10 of the barbarous invading Soviets.

Takhar — Reports from Takhar say that the faithful mujahidin attacked a military convoy of the barbarous Soviet forces near (Majnun) village, which resulted in two tanks and one truck of this convoy being burned out by rocket fire and all their crew being killed. The report adds that during this heavy encounter two mujahidin fighters were also killed.

Another report from Takhar Province says that the second battalion of Takhar 5th regiment has been surrounded and that the battle is still continuing. The report adds that this battalion sustained heavy losses as a result of the fighting, and that the enemy had no opportunity to bury their dead.

Nangarhar — Our correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that as a result of the mujahidin's attacks four soldiers of (Landi Khyber) regiment were killed, and seven soldiers of (Landi Khyber) and six soldiers of Jalalabad Division were seriously injured. The report adds that three soldiers of Sorkh Rud Regiment also joined the mujahidin.

Paktia — Reports from Paktia Province say that as a result of the heroic mujahidin attacks on the units of Khowst Division three soldiers of Khowst Division were killed, and three officers, two soldiers and three policemen were seriously injured.

Gandhi on Reform in Public Sector Industry

BK271610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister has said there is a need for a hard look at the public sector plants to make them pay or at least break even. In an interview with the Bombay news weekly *BLITZ*, he said government will have to reorient policies in the nonessential sectors. Some freedom of operation should be allowed in non-essential items while taking away government finance from them so as to concentrate on essential fields.

Referring to controls, the prime minister said these lead to corruption and delays. He would like to cut out controls without the government losing control on the direction in which the economy should develop. At the same time, he made it clear that government will not be bullied by political pressures or influential groups of vested interests.

Mr Gandhi also answered questions relating to Pakistan. He hoped that Pakistan will lay down the same standards while trying the hijackers of the Indian Airlines aircraft as for the Pakistani hijackers. He also hoped that the Pakistan president will not try to get publicity out of the trial. It should be conducted with speed and fairness.

Referring to another question, the prime minister said that the British Government is at last looking seriously at the issue of containing Mr Jagjit Singh Chauhan and his followers. He agreed that there has been some positive signs of the British Government help to solve the problem.

Gandhi To Visit USSR 'Sometime in May'

BK271240 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will visit the Soviet Union sometime in May, according to reliable sources. It may be recalled that an official spokesman said last week that dates suitable to both the countries are being considered.

The prime minister is also scheduled to visit Bhutan. The dates for the visit to Thimphu have yet not been finalized. It is understood that Mr Gandhi is likely to visit the Himalayan Kingdom sometime in April.

Prohibitory Orders in Effect in Madhya Pradesh

BK280347 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, all state government offices and educational institutions will remain closed today as a precautionary measure following the call for a statewide bundh [strike]. Banks and government treasury will remain open. Prohibitory orders under section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons at one place] have been promulgated in the city. The orders will not be applicable to election activity. Our correspondent reports that normal life in the city remains unaffected by the bundh. Vehicular traffic is plying as usual. However, the state road transport corporation has suspended its bus services for today. The roadside shops and restaurants are open, and the other shops are also opening gradually.

Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh University Students' Sangharsh Morcha [struggle front] has announced withdrawal of its support to the bundh call.

The chief minister, Mr Arun Singh, has appealed to the students to maintain peace. Speaking to two student delegations who called on him last night, the chief minister said the government is not opposed to any peaceful demonstration by them. He requested the students to foil the designs of disruptive elements.

Further on Madhya Pradesh Strike

BK280851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, normal life was affected today by the statewide bundh [strike] called by the anti-New Reservation Policy Committee. AIR [All India Radio] Bhopal correspondent reports that markets are closed and vehicular traffic is off the roads. Reports reaching Bhopal from different parts of the state say that the bundh call evoked a near-total response in some places while its impact was partial in some other areas. No untoward incident has however been reported from anywhere. All the state governemnt offices and educational institutions in the state have been closed as a precautionary measure in Bhopal. Banks however worked as usual.

Meanwhile, the Indore branch of the Madhya Pradesh high court today issued an order staying the operation of the new reservation policy of the state government.

School Teacher Shot Dead by Youths in Punjab

BK280902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] In Punjab, three unidentified youths shot dead a school teacher near Goraya in Jullundur District this morning. The assailants came on a scooter and escaped after the incident. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh the assailants and the victim belong to the same community.

Opposition-Sponsored Strike in Rajasthan Fails

BK271606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] In Rajasthan, the bundh [strike] organized by some opposition parties did not have much impact on normal life.

The bundh was partial in 16 districts and in 11 other districts it had little impact. The public transport and other essential services functioned normally at all places. Work in government offices and banks was not affected. Shops and commercial establishments at many places, however, remained closed. Some edu-

cational institutions were also closed. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state.

In Jaipur, the opposition parties took out a procession and presented a memorandum to the governor demanding prosecution of those guilty of the alleged killing of Mr Man Singh. In Deeg and Bharatpur, markets remained closed. The situation in these areas is reported to be peaceful. The state unit of the Bhartiya Janata Party and the CPI-M have claimed that the bundh was successful.

430 Tamil Refugees Reach Rameswaram 26 Feb
BK270402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Over 430 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka arrived in Rameswaram yesterday. Already, about 10,000 refugees have crossed the sea following violence against them by the Sri Lankan Army and armed Sinhalese mobs. The Tamil Nadu government had arrangements to shelter them in different places in the state.

Commentary on Implications of U.S. Arms to Pakistan
BK261405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 26 Feb 85

[R. Raina commentary]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has referred recently to India-U.S. relations. In an interview with an American newspaper, the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, Mr Gandhi said that hopes for closer ties with the United States are being hindered by the continued U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. He made it clear that the future U.S.-India relations depend on policy of Washington. We have an open mind, he said, and added that there have always been problems with arming of Pakistan. As far as India is concerned, this is not a new stance. Right from the 1950's, when American arms aid to Pakistan started, India has been of the view that induction of the arms into the subcontinent only accentuates problems, results in an arms race at the cost of economic development, and brings the area into the arena of big power conflict. All these fears have come true. As Mr Gandhi told the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, these weapons are ultimately used against India. This was unmistakably borne out during the India-Pakistan conflict of 1965 and 1971. As we know General Zia of Pakistan established a new security relationship with the United States on acceptance of $3.2 billion worth of economic and military aid package.

According to the well-known American columnist Jack Anderson, this understanding between Pakistan and the United States was reached on three conditions. Firstly, General Zia had promised to allow U.S. planes to use Pakistani airfield should the Soviet bombers threaten the Gulf. Secondly, in return for this facility the United States will share intelligence information with Pakistan. And thirdly, General Zia agreed to let U.S. weapons to be sent to the Afghan rebels through his special (?sources) andthat the U.S. had agreed to train Pakistan president's bodyguards. All these arrangements made Pakisan what is called a front-line country in the U.S. military strategy against the Soviet Union. In other words, Pakistan becomes a military ally of the United States.

Before we discuss the implications of this agreement, it is useful to have a look at the type of military package Pakistan is getting. Under the arrangement Pakistan is getting NATO's top-ranking fighter bomber — the F-16. This combat aircraft runs on a course that is chartered by the computer which is programmed before the aircraft starts on its mission. Islamabad is reported to have put pressure on the United States to ensure that F-16's are kept in readiness for a possible operation on the India side.

Pakistan also expects to get the versatile Maverick air-to-surface missile system for its F-16's and also for its Navy which will give it greater offensive capability in the air and over the sea. Besides, Pakistan is reportedly to receive the latest E-2C Hawkeye radar surveillance and command and control aircraft from the United States. One need not go into further details. The nature of the arms being supplied to Pakistan are clearly not meant for its defense against Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The noted American journalist and scholar (Felix Harrison), who covered both 1965 and 1971 wars, has demolished the Reagan administration's rationale for massive arms support to Pakistan. In his testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr (Harrison) said "Pakistan is seeking upgraded system in order to improve its combat capability against India in place of systems adequate to serve the limited defensive interceptor role that Pakistani aircraft should realistically be expected to play in the event of Soviet or Afghan border pressure." The other argument by the Reagan administration in defense of arming Pakistan is that it will prevent Pakistan from going in for a nuclear bomb. About this (Harrison) has to say: "Administration spokesmen have contended that an adequate program of conventional military assistance would deter Pakistan from developing a nuclear military capability. But the evidence is overwhelming that Islamabad has continued to pursue its nuclear option despite U.S. military aid commitments." (Harrison) also says that the other argument that such aid leverage would be used to promote political liberalization in Pakistan has also been proved wrong. We shall quote again from (Harrison) because what he says goes to the core of the matter. (Harrison) says: "It is clearly dangerous for the United States in military terms to harbor illusory hopes with respect to a Pakistani role in West Asia and the Gulf and it is deeply damaging to America's security interests, more broadly defined, for the United States to poison its political and psychological relations with India in the pursuit of such hopes."

When Mr Rajiv Gandhi told the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* that hopes for closer ties with the United States are being hindered by the continued U.S. arms supply to Pakistan, he was only emphasizing what some American observers themselves believe.

Zia on Task of National Assembly, Elections

BK281043 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he has great expectations from the newly elected members of the National Assembly, not only to continue but also to speed up the Islamization process. Talking to newsmen before c: sting his vote in Rawalpindi today, he expressed a hope that the new National Assembly will work in a positive manner to achieve Islamic ideas as well as to eradicate corruption, nepotism, and such like social evils.

Expressing his satisfaction over the peace and orderly conduct of the election, he said its credit went to the election commission and the administration. The elections, he said, has proved that the government could not have prevented free and impartial elections even if it had wanted to. When his attention was drawn to some candidates having been elected with the help of a very small percentage of the total votes of their respective constituency, he said this was one of the vagaries of the parliamentary system.

As for the federal ministers who lost in the elections, the president pointed out their inclusion in the cabinet had been made on the basis of their personal merit and not their popularity. The elections, he said, were a barometer and the voters have cast their votes keeping in view the positive side of the candidates.

Voting in Provincial Assembly Elections Begins

BK280609 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The people of four provinces have been voting since this morning to elect their respective provincial assemblies. The voting began at 0800 [0300 GMT] and will continue uninterrupted until 1700. Today is a public holiday to enable the maximum number of people to exercise their right to vote. Voting for provincial assemblies will be held at the same polling stations as the voting for the National Assembly. At the polling stations, all presiding officers will stamp seals on all ballot boxes after ensuring that they are empty. The counting of the ballots will begin soon after the conclusion of voting, and the ballots will be sealed in packets according to the prescribed procedure. The presiding officer will prepare the statement about preliminary counting, showing the votes received by each candidate. A copy of that statement will be provided to the candidates or their agents.

Meanwhile, an Election Commission spokesman has said that the Election Commission will release in Islamabad the provisional results of the provincial assembly elections to the news media in the same way that it did in the case of the National Assembly elections.

Radio Pakistan says that about 3,570 candidates are in the fray for 460 Muslim seats in provincial assemblies. Out of those, about 1,750 are running for 240 seats in the Punjab assembly. About 880 candidates are in the field for 100 Muslim seats in the Sind provincial assembly, about 590 candidates for 80 seats in the Northwest Frontier Province, and about 350 candidates for 40 seats in the Baluchistan provincial assembly. Twenty-four women are also in the field for general Muslim seats in provincial assemblies. Some 196 candidates are running for 23 non-Muslim seats in four provincial assemblies. Twenty-three seats of four provincial assemblies are reserved for women. The polling for these seats will take place after the election for general seats.

According to observers, following the peaceful, orderly, and disciplined National Assembly elections, the voters are imbued with added enthusiasm and confidence in the election process initiated by the present government. They add that keeping in view the turnout of voters in the National Assembly elections, the percentage of people voting is expected to be high in the provincial assembly elections. The observers are confident that today's voting will also be held in the same exemplarily disciplined and orderly manner as that seen on 25 February.

Voting Termed 'Brisk'

BK280653 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Voters throughout the country are voting to elect four provincial assemblies. The polling began on as brisk a note today as it had in the National Assembly elections last Monday. Large numbers of voters of both sexes and of all ages have been seen moving toward the polling booths since this morning to exercise their right to vote. The voting has been in progress for 3 hours, and a substantial number of people have already voted, while more and more voters are continuing to throng their respective polling stations. As in Monday's general elections, women voters are participating in today's voting with the same fervor and enthusiasm as their male counterparts.

Radio Pakistan's correspondents have reported from various parts of the country that intense activity has been seen at the election camps set up by the candidates the prescribed distance from the polling stations. These camps are issuing identity slips, which are greatly helping the voters in exercising their right to vote.

There are reports of peaceful and orderly voting from all major cities and towns, including Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Gujarat, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Shahiwal, Sargodha, Mianwali, Attock, Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Bahawal Nagar, Rahimyar Khan, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Shikarpur, Thatta, Badin, Larkana, Sukkur, Dadu, Jacobabad, Abbottabad, Manshera, Kohat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, Kalat, Pishin, Khujdar, Loralai, and Sibi.

Further on Voter Turnout

BK281118 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] With only 2 hours of polling time left in the elections for the four provincial assemblies today, a substantial number of voters have already cast their votes while still some more voters continue to converge on the polling stations. With the climax of the polling approaching, voter turnout has continued to swell, and

reports received from various parts of the country suggest that when polling eventually comes to a halt at the scheduled time of 1700, the total number of voters having exercised their right to vote would far exceed the number in the National Assembly elections last Monday.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq cast his vote at a polling station in Rawalpindi. The polling had been in progress for 2 hours then, and the president was informed that so far 40 percent voters had cast their vote by the time in an orderly and peaceful manner. The president went round a number of polling stations in the city to see for himself the polling arrangements. As he came out of the polling station, the crowd raised slogans of "President Ziaul Haq Zindabad" [long live], and "Mard-i-Haq [true man] Ziaul Haq, Ziaul Haq."

Addressing a crowd gathered at the polling camps of candidates, the president impressed upon them the importance of the exercise of the right of franchise as a national duty of the people.

As already reported, the polling this morning began on a brisk note with streams of voters converging on the polling stations even before the time when polling actually began. As the day progressed, the number of voters of all ages kept on mounting steadily, and queues outside the polling stations got bigger and bigger. As in Monday's National Assembly elections, in today's polls, women voters have been participating with the same fervor and enthusiasm as their male counterparts.

Our Lahore representative has been to a number of polling stations since this morning, and he reports that the tempo of polling has been further (?increasing) in the afternoon. He received similar reports from various districts of the Punjab. He reported long lines of both men and women voters waiting for their turn to cast their vote with many more heading for their respective polling stations by bus, wagon, and bicycles or on foot to exercise their right of franchise.

Reports of enthusiastic polling in various constitutencies of Sind have been received from our Karachi representative. The Sind governor, Lieutenant General Jahandad Khan, was among those who cast their vote early. He later went round various booths for men and women voters. The governor expressed satisfaction over the perfect arrangements made to ensure that the polling was free and fair. He was confident that the turnout of the provincial assembly elections would be even higher than the National Assembly polls.

Our Peshawar representative after visiting several polling stations in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] capital reports that he witnessed unprecedented enthusiasm which even surpassed the enthusiasm of Monday's National Assembly polls among voters of all sexes and all ages. He further reports that long queues of voters could be seen at polling stations well before the start of the polling time of 0800.

In Swat, some people tried to create law and order situation at Matta, 30 km from (Mengora) this morning. They were dispersed. Some arrests were made and they will be tried by a summary military court.

In PF 60 Bannu constituency, polling at Azim Kili polling station of Domail area which was suspended owing to an incident, was resumed after a short break. One person was reported killed in the incident which was the outcome of some old enmity.

Voting at Two Stations Disrupted, Repolling Set

BK271600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Election Commission has ordered repolling at two polling stations — one in Bannu and another in Jhang.

Polling was disrupted at polling station No 64 [words indistinct] of the National Assembly electoral constituency No 20 Bannu-2 when a group of people created a law and order issue, following which polling was suspended. These people carried away three ballot boxes which contained marked ballot papers. The Election Commission, on the report of the returning officer, suspended the polling and counting of votes.

Polling was suspended at polling station No 47 Lau of the National Assembly constituency No 66 Jhang-4 due to a clash between rival groups.

Investigations into the incidents at both polling stations are in progress. Repolling at these stations will start at 0800 tomorrow and will continue until 1700. Returning officers have already been asked to take necessary steps in this regard.

Military Court Sentences 6 for Election Offenses

BK280243 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] A mobile summary military court in Thatta has sentenced six persons of Allahdin and (Khajkeli) villages on charges of indulging in offensive conduct before the polling officials and obstructing elections at a polling station of the Mirpur Batoro Taluk.

Editorial on Sentences for Sikh Hijackers

GF271248 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Amending Death Penalty law"]

[Excerpts] It is a matter of satisfaction that the government is contemplating amending the death clause in the law applicable to the Sikh hijackers before their trial begins. There is speculation that a decision will be reached at a high-level meeting 12 February. The death clause was first inserted into the law for dealing with the hijacking offenses after a passenger was deliberately murdered by Pakistani hijackers. However, the matter of Sikh hijackers is somewhat different. They have not committed a crime within Pakistani airspace. They have not hijacked a Pakistani plane. They have not injured any passengers. They certainly violated Pakistani airspace when their plane was running low on fuel and the plane was allowed to land in Pakistan for that reason alone.

If we look at them from this angle we feel they do not deserve the death penalty. If they were political criminals they would have done themselves wrong and might deserve some kind of punishment. However, little is known yet about the real charges against them. The nature of their crime will be decided by the law courts under the Pakistan Penal Code. Even under that law they cannot be hanged, as they have not killed anyone. Even if they are given the death penalty it will distress the people in both Pakistan and India, and world opinion would also condemn such a conviction or sentence.

Unter the circumstances, the view of the Pakistan Government that the law needs to be amended is appreciated. Now when Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi also favors placating the sikhs why should we feel that we are at different poles as far as our policies with India are concerned over this matter. In fact, we have met the Indian demand that we try the hijackers, but India has on no occasion asked for capital punishment for the Sikh hijackers. Under the circumstances, if we amend the law the Indian Government should have no objection. If the court finds them guilty and sentences them to moderate punishment the Indian Government will also avoid further tension with its Sikh community.

The death penalty is given only in cases of deliberate murder. However there are different opinions over this matter as well. Would it not be possible to abolish the death penalty altogether and replace it with life imprisonment for those whose sentences have increased from 14 years to 25 years. We think a life sentence is an even harsher sentence than the death penalty. But the basic idea behind imprisonment remains that the criminals should be removed from society for a period.

Karachi: Mujahidin Shoot Down MIG in Afghanistan

BK280351 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a Soviet MIG near Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan Province, on 12 February. According to another report, the mujahidin attacked a military post at Khash Rud town in Nimruz Province in the middle of this month, killing a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroying a radio.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Appoints New Social Welfare Minister

BK271453 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has appointed lawyer Rabia Bhuvian as a member of his council of ministers. The president administered the oath to the newly appointed minister at a simple ceremony at the presidency this afternoon. Mrs Rabeya Bhuinya has been entrusted with the responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs. The two deputy martial law administrators, ministers, and senior civil and military officers were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Student, Political Bodies Dismiss Ershad Speech

BK251643 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 21 Feb 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Several political and student organizations have refused to listen to the speech of the president and chief martial law administrator. The Bangladesh Peasants and Workers League and the Bangladesh Students League (Aziz and Miraj) took out protest marches as soon as he started his speech. The protesters raised various slogans including "We don't accept Ershad's declarations" and "Don't accept elections under martial law." A.F.M. Mahbubul Haq, convener of the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Mahbubul), said in a statement that General Ershad in his speech sidetracked the main issues and repeated the same old things. He has given no indication of solving the national problems.

Garib Nawaz, chairman of the People's League (Nawaz) and Syed Mahabubur Hossain, the chief secretary of the party, said in a statement that their party will never accept elections under martial law. They called upon all the democratic forces opposing martial law to build a people's movement against the election.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister To Arrive 28 Feb

BK270654 Dhaka BSS in English 0639 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 27, BSS — Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed will arrive here tomorrow [28 February] on a four-day visit to Bangladesh. He will call on the Bangladesh foreign adviser, Mr. Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and other Cabinet ministers.

Mr. Hameed will preside over the annual general meeting of the Worldview International, an humanitarian organisation engaged in the development activities in education, hygiene, population issues and nutrition sectors in South Asia.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali on Fishing Ban Relaxation

BK261257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] An agency report from Colombo says the Sri Lankan security forces killed four suspected Tamil militants in the northern province of Jaffna last night. The report said that they were traveling in vehicle when the Army fired upon them.

Meanwhile, the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, has said that ban on fishing off Sri Lanka's coast will be relaxed next month. The area was declared a prohibited zone last November.

In Tamil Nadu, Ramanathapuram town wore a deserted look today as shops, cinema houses, and hotels remained closed. This was in response to a call given by the Ramanathapuram chamber of commerce to protest against the atrocities on Tamils in Sri Lanka and attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

Police Discover Plan To Create Student Unrest

BK251109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The CID [Criminal Investigation Department] has (?laid bare) a plan to force school children to boycott classes after the unsuccessful strike at the universities, according to the Education Ministry.

Security in schools should be tightened and all heads of schools have been instructed to keep out strangers from their premises and ensure that students are not incited by outsiders.

According to the police, a group known as the Association of Socialist Revolutionary Youths has launched a campaign with the aim of creating student unrest and helping northern terrorists. The organization has now diverted its attention to schools after its unsuccessful attempt to call out university students.

The group, according to the police, comprised some members of an action committee, which organized a boycott campaign among university students. Police have found important papers calling for support for northern revolutionary activities left behind by some outsiders in a hall of the University of Colombo. The pamphlet claimed that support should be extended although it may cost the lives of some undergraduates.

Meanwhile, the police have advised that school children should not loiter on streets during inter-school matches.

Khamene'i Praises Kurds' Service to Revolution

LD271754 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — President Khamene'i today praised the Kurds of Iran and the Kurdish peshmarga as people to whom the Islamic Republic and the revolution are indebted for their devoted service to the nation. He said by fighting the counterrevolutionaries in Kurdestan Province of Iran the Kurds and the peshmarga had inflicted "a staggering blow on the world arrogance."

Khamene'i who was speaking to a visiting group of the Kurdish Muslim peshmergas said the counterrevolution and armed rebel groups have acted in Iran as the germs of global arrogance and tend to invade and do harm only to the societies devoid of a healthy atmosphere.

He said also that the Islamic Government has an identical attitude towards all ethnic groups in Iran including the Baluchis, the Arab-speaking people and the Turkomans, and noted that the enemies of the Islamic Republic have long since realised that because here is a nation of people devoted to the divine goals they cannot do anything against it.

The president said also that the Islamic Republic shall remain independent so long as it does not allow the West and the East to dictate to it, and as long as the country does not pay tribute to either of the superpowers. He asserted that so long as the Islamic Republic has chosen not to bribe the West and East there is no reason why it should bribe armed dissident sub-groups in Iran.

Further on Visit by PRC Economic Delegation

Meets With Aqazadeh

LD271222 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — The Chinese State Counsellor Zhang Jingfu met with the Iranian Minister of State for Executive Affairs Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and conferred about the expansion of relations between the two countries in agriculture, fishery, animal husbandry, irrigation, rural industries, and dam building.

Jingfu who leads an economic delegation expressed the hope that the growth of cooperation between China and Iran promotes the North-South dialogue.

At the end of this meeting, members of two delegations formed three committees in economy and commerce, agriculture and science, and technology, and continued the discussions.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD272016 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi stressed on the importance of cooperation between Iran and China in a meeting today with the visiting economic delegation from the People's Republic of China.

The prime minister sketched the political regional geography of the two countries and said they should have a joint stance on various issues in international organisations. But Musavi criticised the "destructive political habit" of world nations for accepting the dominance of the world powers, specially the United States.

The head of the Chinese delegation, State Councillor Zhang Jingfu called for expansion of airline services between the two countries as a means for greater contact between the peoples. He conveyed the greetings of the Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang to Imam Khomeyni and the government of the Islamic Republic. Jingfu extened an official invitation on behalf of his government to prime minister Musavi to visit China.

Heavy Industries Minister Nabavi Visits Japan

For Tokyo KYODO and Iranian reportage on the visit by Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi and delegation to Tokyo, as well as his meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, please see the Japan section of the 19 February Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT*,and subsequent issues.

KEYHAN Comments on 'Hostile' Turkish Press

LD272334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2120 GMT 26 Feb 85

["What Does the Turkish Press Want?": political commentary by the paper *KEYHAN*]

[Text] *KEYHAN* writes: A few months ago we heard that somewhere the subject of the Turkish press and its hostile attacks against Iran and its revolutionary values were raised, and that Turkish Government officials stretched their hands forward saying: Sir, our press is free and we do not tell it what to write or what not to write. Of course, we too do not wish anyone to tell the Turkish press what to do. The only thing is that we are astonished that the pressmen of a realm — Turkey at that — would be so free and, after crossing a mountain of internal problems and difficulties and a world of international problems, would direct and focus their thoughts onto events in Iran. Of course, this too is no cause for a great deal of astonishment, but unfortunately we see that the events and subjects connected with Iran are being explained and commented on in an even more misrepresented manner than the press of our original enemies.

Just bear in mind the very issue of the POW's and the UN report on the situation of Iranian and Iraqi POW's. Apparently, in this respect the Turkish pressmen have moved ahead of their colleagues in the United States and Iraq. No doubt Turkish journalists would say: We do not share the same things with U.S. citizens. This is indeed so. This is a load on the ground; one should lift it.

After so many years of disseminating propaganda on carrying out evil in these fields, in exonerating Iraq and portraying Iran as guilty, warmongering, savage and uncivilized, we now cannot say that Iranian POW's are being tortured in Iraq; are being

beaten up; are being kept hungry; while Iraqi POW's in Iran are being tormented by the presence of libraries, the holding of lecture meetings — as reported by the well-known UN.

However, if we were straightforward we should say that the subject goes a little beyond these dimensions. The adventure of the hostility felt by Turkish journalists toward Iran dates back to 1979 when the shah was toppled in Iran and a new order was set up next door to Turkey. Following the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Turkey was beset with a series of disturbing acts and demands for changes. These disturbing acts continued parallel with the course of the development in the Iranian Revolution. Particularly after the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Turkey's continuing political disquiet worried the West and this anxiety finally culminated in a military coup d'etat by the Turkish military.

After achieving power the military immediately declared martial law and later history repeated the tragedy; that is, the coming to power of the generals once again appeared in Turkey. Widespread arrests began, political parties were dissolved, and the Constitution was changed. Every move was crushed under the pretext of accusations of subversion and rioting; political personalities who joined their voices to those of young sedition mongers were arrested, tried, or sent into exile. Even Turkey's well-known politicians did not escape this wave, and Turkey galloped toward the desired tranquillity. It is natural that in close proximity to a land of tranquillity where a people were still locked in clashes and inflammation all calculations would break down. One should either destroy collisions or one should give immunity to the people in the land of tranquillity against this collision and inflammation. The most elementary method is by injecting social, political, and cultural immunity and also frightening the people. One should frighten the Turks against the Iranian Revolution, just as one should frighten Arabs against it. One should introduce Iran as beset with riots, penury, lack of security, defeat in the war, and as a land of ignorance and lack of culture. We see that in this context the Turkish press has not lost its way and in all fairplay has acted well.

Continuing, the paper *KEYHAN* writes: However, if Turkish journalists, like their colleagues in the region, were to await special events to carry the banner and come into the arena, we have a great deal of things to say, principled things, logical things, and words on the facts: a horrible reality, whose description is tantamount to fire for a great many people and burns. However, we do not wish to turn our newspaper pages and our radio wavelengths against those people who are in the same boat as we are. However, if we were to do such a deed we would act without taking into consideration the usual and well-known remarks and counsels. You also know very well that stopping such a thing if not impossible, would be extremely difficult.

Of course, we know full well the impact of the presence and the role played by the chief editors and those journalists who are beating their breasts under the banner of Baghdad and undoubtedly are also receiving their wages, and we separate their account from the others. However, the difficulty here is that it appears that Turkey's journalistic atmosphere is being held in the clutches of this group. It is this very issue that has forced us to say what we have to say — our fundamental and principled say — for otherwise we too are good planners and could retaliate in kind, but against whom and over what issue?

In conclusion, the paper *KEYHAN* writes: What we have to say is that we should awaken our own neighbors and remove their groundless fear, since whatever happens we would bear. We say that the volume of commercial exchanges between Iran and Turkey is being carefully followed here bearing in mind these reactions by the Turkish Government and press and other issues. If we were to consider the visit to Turkey by Engineer Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a symbol of our friendly nature and a policy of goodneighborliness, it would not be a bad thing for you to know that all the tasks could not be summarized in that visit.

The Turkish press' hostile approach toward Iran's Islamic Revolution will not be forgotten. What we have to say is that now that we wish to establish relations with the world and establish trade exchanges, would it not be better for us to come closer to our neighbors, to the Afro-Asian countries? Why should the superpowers take our oil and why should our money be poured into the banks of the world guzzlers? We prefer to have transactions with Turkey, with Pakistan, Sierre Leone, and Nigeria. Do not misinterpret this desire, and do not put it down to a move from a position of weakness!

Spanish Court Hands Down Ruling on 'Terrorists'

LD280944 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Madrid, Feb 28, IRNA — Three Iranian Muslims who had been arrested in Spain on the unfounded charges of being involved in terrorist activities seven months ago, were released Wednesday, while the fourth accused was sentenced to six years imprisonment. The four accused Iranians were arrested in Madrid and Barcelona on July 23.

Meanwhile, the lawyer of the four Iranians said that U.S. involvement in the case was clearly obvious.

Referring to an attorney's report at the court, the lawyer said that there was an extensive conspiracy hatched against the Islamic Republic of Iran to attribute revengeful operations in Europe to the followers of Imam Khomeyni.

Interrogation of the four Iranians was conducted through the cooperation of agents of the U.S. Embassy in Madrid.

Seyyed Jabbar Hoseyni, who was sentenced to six years imprisonment, was a representative of the martyr's foundation and head of the center for the Iranians disabled in the Iraqi-imposed war.

KEYHAN Reports Delivery of Submarines From FRG

GF171416 London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 p 2

[Excerpts] Bonn — The West German Government has agreed to hand over to the Islamic Republic the six high-speed submarines less the nuclear equipment which had been ordered by the last regime.

All the technical and equipment matters related to these submarines have been finalized in Hamburg and the personnel of the Iranian Navy who had been training in the FRG will sail the submarines to Iranian waters.

The order for these submarines had been placed by the last regime with the FRG and had made the down-payment of 240 million marks against this order.

These six submarines which were to form a part of Iran's modern Navy had to operate as semi-nuclear units and were meant to give security cover to parts of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

On 18 March last year a delegation from the Iranian Defense Ministry led by Colonel Mozaffari visited Zurich and held a meeting with the company concerned. The balance of the payment for the submarines was credited in the accounts of two banks, Swiss Credit and Union Bank de Swiss.

At present all six submarines are ready for departure from Hamburg. Four of them will leave for Iranian waters and the remaining two will join them later.

Workers Support Plan To Sell Nationalized Plants

LD272234 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 27, IRNA — Thousands of industrial workers gave an overwhelming endorsement to the government's plan to sell the stocks of nationalised factories to the workers, in a gathering at the Azadi indoor sports hall outside Tehran today.

The plan has been approved in the Supreme Industrial Council and its details will be prepared within the next three months for implementation.

Labor Minister Abol Qasim Sarhadizadeh said workers have consistently supported the Islamic Republic with their hard work as well as their participation in the battle front and thus had the right to social benefits as well.

This is the right of our devoted workers to come and say "We were there when there was need for self-sacrifice, we were there when there was a need for tolerance, and we should be there now when the issue is social welfare."

While pointing out that some people are trying to discredit the workers for their so-called inability to own and run a factory by themselves, he said the sale of the factories would create greater motives in the workers to boost production and upgrade the quality of output. It would also thwart attempts by anti-revolutionaries in the factories to disrupt production, Sarhadizadeh added.

In a resolution read at the end of the gathering, the workers supported the government plan and called for an active participation of the workers in preparing its details.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili also said in a speech that the workers were more qualified than anyone else to be given the opportunity to purchase a government-owned factory.

"I will tell you here and now that the idea of selling the stocks of the (nationalised) factories to the workers is one that is Islamic and revolutionary," he said. "I and the government will defend it all the way."

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,017

LD271604 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran and Iraqi troops traded artillery fire across the southern fronts Tuesday with Iranian fire prevailing in Nahr-Anbar, Kushk and Talaiyeh areas, where enemy movements were paralyzed.

Joint Staff Command Communique Number 2017 said that in the Chazzabeh area an enemy motorized column came under Islamic forces fire, forcing it to retreat. Also an Iraqi patrol unit was put to flight in nearby area.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, Islamic combatants barraged Iraqi supply lines in the Al-Faw-Basra axiz halting the activity of their engineering units. Six Ba'thist soldiers were killed or wounded an 8 bunkers destroyed in the area.

In the western and northwestern fronts Iran's Islamic defenders shelled enemy positions, halting the activity of their patrol units.

Groups From Three Provinces Leave for War Front

LD281049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, during the past 2 days a large number of members of rural resistance groups and warrior tribes in Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province, from the cities of Gachsaran, Yasuj and Dehdasht and also from the districts of Sisakht, Charam, Landeh, Bahmani and Behsud, amid a tumultuous send-off from the Hezbollahi people, left for the fronts of the imposed war to relieve the monotheist corps.

Similarly, according to reports, during the past 2 days thousands of other popular forces and combatant members of the meek mobilization forces, members of the "Labbeyk ya Khomeyni" plan, volunteers for redispatch to the fronts from the Provinces of Bushehr and Fars and the cities of Kerman, Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Zarrin Shahr, Lordegan, Rasht, Shahrud, Mianeh, Bandar 'Abbas, Bafq, and also a group of seminarists from Kashan, left for the war fronts amid a warm send-off from the people of these areas.

Also, in order to carry out technical, support and reconstruction work in the war-torn areas of our country, during the past 2 days other groups of our technical and specialist brothers in various fields from the cities of Shahrud, Qa'em, Neyshabur and Lordegan left for these areas.

The Vahed Bus Company in Tehran and suburbs also announced that the monthly dispatch of the company's volunteer personnel

to the battlefronts, consisting of a number of drivers and technical personnel from this company, left for the company's support staff headquarters stationed in Ahvaz amid a warm send-off from the rest of their colleagues.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Hit Baghdad Gas Plant

LD271944 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim mujahidin attacked Al-Taj gas plant in Baghdad by five RPG's and inflicted heavy damages on it Monday [25 February]. A representative of the Iraqi mujahidin told IRNA Wednesday that the attack was launched by Martyr Abu-Balal group. He added that another group of Iraqi Muslim mujahidin attacked a parking lot for state trucks at Abu-Gharib in the vicinity of Baghdad, and set a number of vehicles on fire on the same day.